

**Agreed Minutes
of the Latvian – Kazakh Joint Committee
Meeting on International Road Transport
via video conferencing
17 April, 2024**

The following agenda was agreed by the delegations:

1. Exchange of information regarding the development of trade and road transport between Latvia and Kazakhstan.
2. Transport of goods by road, including the establishment of the road transport permit quota for 2024 and preliminary for 2025.
3. Analysis of infringements related to the implementation of the bilateral Agreement on International Carriage by Road.
4. Miscellaneous.

The composition of both delegations is annexed to the Agreed Minutes.

1. Exchange of information regarding the development of trade and road transport between Latvia and Kazakhstan

The two delegations exchanged statistical information concerning trade relations between the two countries and about the organization of the road transport sectors in each of them. The Latvian delegation presented information on passenger and goods transport by road in Latvia, as well as information on international trade between Latvia and Kazakhstan.

The Latvian delegation noted that during the year 2023 export volume from Latvia to Kazakhstan reached 124.5 million EUR, and compared to the previous year it has risen by 3.7%, while import from Kazakhstan has exceeded 81.7 million EUR thus increasing by 27.8%. Total trade turnover between both countries increased by 12.1%, totaling 206.2 million EUR during 2023.

The main types of goods imported from Kazakhstan include cereals, iron, steel, miscellaneous seeds, and fruit.

Exports from Latvia to Kazakhstan include electrical machinery, beverages, spirits, vinegar, pharmaceutical products

The Kazakh delegation highlighted that their data on the trade exchange volume of cargo transportation by road by the end of 2023 amounted to 70.4 thousand tons (imports – 48.9 thousand tons, exports - 21.5 thousand tons), with an increase of 53% compared to 2022 (45.8 thousand tons).

The Latvian delegation informed about the structure of their heavy goods vehicle fleet and noted that the number of licensed Latvian operators involved in international goods transport operations has dropped by 0.2% in 2024 compared to the previous year, reaching 4726 operators. The number of vehicles involved in international carriage of goods has reached 15338 units. Additionally, the Latvian delegation noted the increase in the number of vehicles corresponding to EURO V and EURO VI standards amounting to 82% of the entire fleet involved in international operations.

The Kazakh delegation presented the information on the structure of the vehicle fleet and noted that in 2023/2024 there were about 400 companies involved in international goods

transport. The number of vehicles involved in the international carriage of goods in 2023/2024 was 10 thousand units.

The Kazakh delegation also underlined that the number of vehicles corresponding to EURO V and EURO VI standards amounting to 60% of the entire fleet involved in international operations.

Both sides signified their satisfaction with the positive development of trade between the two countries and expressed hope that the trade turnover and the number of international goods transport operations between Latvia and Kazakhstan will continue an upward trend in the future.

2. Transport of goods by road, including the establishment of the road transport permit quota for 2024 and preliminary for 2025

Both delegations noted that for the year 2024, four thousand (4000) permits valid for bilateral and transit transport operations and one thousand (1000) permits valid for third country transport operations have been initially exchanged, and three thousand (3000) permits valid for bilateral and transit transport operations and one thousand (1000) permits valid for third country transport operations have been additionally exchanged in April of 2024 as a result of the written agreement between the respective ministries of the two countries.

The delegations exchanged information on the usage of permits in 2023 and in the 1st quarter of the year 2024.

After discussions and taking into account the positive development of trade between the two countries, as well as the underlying ambition of the two delegations to further develop the carriage of goods by road between Latvia and Kazakhstan, the delegations agreed to establish an additional exchange of permits for the year 2024 as follows:

- 3000 permits valid for bilateral and transit transport operations for the Kazakh side;
- 2000 permits valid for third country transport operations for the Latvian side.

The parties agreed to make an additional exchange of the permits by June 15, 2024 via diplomatic channels

The parties agreed to return to consideration of the issue of setting a preliminary quota for 2025 in the third quarter of this year.

The permits for 2025 shall be exchanged by 15 December 2024 via diplomatic channels.

All permits of the current year shall be valid till 31 January of the following year.

The delegations agreed that in case of necessity, any of the Parties can request an additional number of permits and such requests will be examined in the spirit of goodwill.

3. Analysis of infringements related to the implementation of the bilateral Agreement on International Carriage by Road.

As per Article 16 of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Latvia and the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, in February 2024, the Latvian side received a letter from the Committee for Road Transport and Transport Control of the Ministry of Transport of Kazakhstan (29.01.2024 No 21-11/323 – И) with a list of infringements committed by Latvian road transport operators in the territory of Kazakhstan in 2023 - a total of 31 cases of violations

In response to the letter, explanations were requested from representatives of companies on the violation list. The examination carried out by the Latvian side revealed that in several cases violations in question had been recorded against Latvian carriers whose vehicles had not physically entered the territory of Kazakhstan as during the performance of transport operations from European countries to Kazakhstan, their loaded semi-trailers were decoupled in Belarus and handed over together with cargo documents and Kazakh permits for third country transport operations, issued to these Latvian carriers, to the Kazakh carriers for further delivery of the cargo to the place of destination in Kazakhstan.

Therefore, the Latvian side asked to clarify the procedure for processing international road transport permits when entering Kazakhstan and the criteria followed by the Kazakh control authorities in assessing violations and liabilities of Latvian transport operators.

The Kazakh delegation clarified that when Latvian transport companies carry out international carriage of goods bound for Kazakhstan and during the journey recouple semitrailers or reload goods to be further carried by a carrier registered in another country it is necessary to present to the control authorities of Kazakhstan the original Kazakh permit or a copy of the Kazakh permit with the original tear-off coupon from the permit issued to the involved Latvian transport company.

The Latvian side also shared information on violations committed by international road transport operators registered in Kazakhstan. According to the data provided by the Latvian State Police, in 2023, 136 decisions were passed on violations of Kazakh carriers. The majority of violations were for carrying out international road transport operations without a permit for international carriage of goods, for non-payment of road toll, for non-compliance with the rules on driver's work and rest times, and for exceeding the prescribed axle load distribution.

In addition, in 2024, 29 decisions were adopted on violations committed by Kazakh international road transport operators, 28 of which were related to carrying out international commercial road transport operations without valid Latvian permits and one violation for exceeding the specified axle load distribution. Detailed information on violations of Kazakh carriers will be provided separately by the Latvian side.

4. Miscellaneous

Both delegations exchanged information on licensing systems and issuing permits in their countries.

The Latvian delegation provided the Kazakh delegation with updated information on road charging in Latvia, including that the system is extended to goods vehicles with permissible total weight over 3.0 tons. The Latvian side noted that the vignette is electronic. It is possible to purchase it with a fuel card, a credit card, by mobile phone or by Internet. The carriers can purchase a day, a week, a month, and a year vignettes. An electronic database is used for control of the vignette system. The vignettes are issued taking into consideration the ecological standards of the vehicles, number of axles, etc. More detailed information is available at: www.lv vignette.eu.

The Kazakh side reported that information on toll roads in the Republic of Kazakhstan is posted on the website: <https://kaztoll.kz>

The delegations exchanged information on competent authorities and bodies in the field of road transport in both countries.

The Latvian side pointed out that road transport control functions inside the country are executed by the Bureau of Traffic Supervision and Coordination of Traffic Safety Directorate of Main Directorate of State Police (address: 10B Ezermalas Street, Riga, LV-1009, phone: +371 67208143; email: sdp@vp.gov.lv).

The Kazakh delegation informed that in Kazakhstan road transport control, including control of maximum permissible weights and dimensions is performed by the Department of Control on Road Transport and the Situational Center of the Committee for Road Transport and Transport Control (+7 7172 98 35 30, +7 7172 98 35 35, +7 7172 98 35 17, +7 7172 98 35 40 b.tolegen@transport.gov.kz, g.salmaev@transport.gov.kz, a.avssin@transport.gov.kz)

It was noted that special authorizations for carriage of abnormal loads in Latvia are issued by the State joint – stock company “Latvian State Roads” (address: 7/9 Torna Street, Room 203, Riga, LV-1050; phone: +371 67036412; email: atlaujas@lvceļi.lv).

The Kazakh delegation informed that special permits for the transportation of dangerous, bulky and heavy goods in Kazakhstan are issued by the regional transport control inspections of the Committee for Road Transport and Transport Control (+7 7172 98 35 15, s.musagaliev@transport.gov.kz)

The parties noted their intentions to introduce electronic permit forms. If it is ready to be implemented, either party may apply to the other party with an appropriate proposal.

The Kazakh side requested, if possible, a solution to increase the capacity of border crossing checkpoints on the Latvian side, due to the increased waiting time for crossing the border.

The Latvian side informed that this issue is within the competence of other state bodies to which the request is going to be forwarded as well as underlined that due to sanctions regimes more thorough controls are performed

The Latvian side also informed that regarding the request of the Kazakh side for the possibility of providing data on the actual passage of Kazakhstani vehicles and the use of permits is within the competence of other state bodies of the Latvian side.

The meeting was held in a friendly and constructive atmosphere.

Both delegations emphasized the usefulness of the meeting.

The Latvian delegation invited the Kazakh delegation to Latvia for the next Joint Committee meeting in Riga. The exact dates of the meeting will be additionally agreed upon through correspondence.

Done at Riga and Astana, on 17 April, 2024, in two originals in the English language.

For the Latvian delegation

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For the Kazakh delegation

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